

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to more-particularly claim Applicants' invention. As will be discussed further below, Applicants respectfully submit that even if Yoshisue can be modified by kido, the combined references still do not disclose the now claimed features where the repetition lever has a shank roller-pushing part having left and right wall parts which define a jack guide hole for guiding a jack and on which a shank roller of the hammer rides, and where each of the left and right wall parts has left and right upper edges chamfered.

As discussed above, and as disclosed in Applicants' specification at least at para. 0028 and in Figure 5, amended claim 1 now claims the features where the repetition lever 4 has a shank roller-pushing part 42 having left 45a and right 45a wall parts which define a jack guide hole 45 for guiding a jack 5 and on which a shank roller 37 of the hammer 30 rides, and where each of the left and right wall parts 45a has left and right upper edges chamfered 45b.

As discussed in Applicants' specification at para. 0046, since the wall parts 45a of the jack guide hole 45 of the repetition lever 4 are chamfered, and the shank roller 37 of the hammer 30 is disposed on the wall parts 45a, the contact area between the repetition lever 4 and the shank roller 37 is reduced, which makes it possible to reduce frictional resistance to thereby reduce the static load on the key. As further discussed at para. 0046, a test by the Applicants confirms that the static load on the key is reduced by 1 to 3 g as a result of this novel feature of Applicants' invention. Therefore, since this claimed feature of Applicants' invention is not disclosed in Yoshisue's repetition lever 5 (Figures 1 and 4), nor in kido, and since Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is not merely a matter of obvious design choice, but rather, is a configuration which is significant as evidenced by Applicants' own specification, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is now allowable.

Further in this Amendment, Applicants have added new independent claim 7. In new claim 7, Applicants claim the feature where the repetition lever 4 has a shank roller-pushing part 42 having left 45a and right 45a wall parts which define a jack guide hole 45 for guiding a jack 5 and on which a shank roller 37 of the hammer 30 rides, and the shank roller-pushing part 42 has at an outer side surface thereof a marking line 57a as a reference in adjusting an angular position of the jack 5. Applicants respectfully submit that these features of Applicants' invention are clearly disclosed in Applicants' specification at least at para. 0027 and in Figure 4. Applicants respectfully submit that these features of Applicants' invention provide a configuration that is significant for the reasons as evidenced in Applicants' specification at least at para. 0037, and that these feature are not disclosed in, or obvious in view of, the cited references. According to the feature of independent claim 7, since the shank roller-pushing part of the repetition lever has at an outer side surface thereof a marking line as a reference in adjusting an angular position of the jack, no friction occurs between the shank roller-pushing part and the shank roller of the hammer riding thereon.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 7 is allowable. Further, since these features are also the subject of new dependent claim 6, which depends from amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that new dependent claim 6 is allowable for at least this additional reason.

Further in this Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification as suggested by the Examiner regarding the section headings in upper case and not including brackets. Applicants respectfully appreciate the Examiner's comments regarding the "suggested" section headings, however, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification clearly is organized by sections, i.e., "Field of the Invention", "Background Art", "Brief Description of the Drawings", "Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention", etc. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification meets any requirements for format without incorporating the "suggested" headings. Further, M.P.E.P. ¶ 608.01(a), which references 37

C.F.R. 1.77(b), only provides that the order of arrangement of specification elements "is preferable", and thus not required, and that these guidelines "are suggested" for the applicant's use, and intended primarily for use in *pro se* applications to give guidance to those applicants that may need a suggested format. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's objections to the specification have been obviated by Applicants' amendments and respectfully request that any suggestion of the Examiner not obviated be withdrawn.

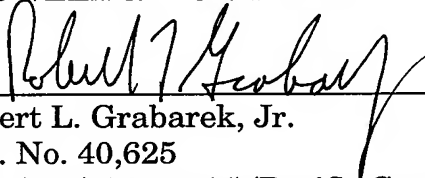
Lastly, since the present Office Action is a "Final" Action, Applicants are filing a Request for Continued Examination concurrent with the filing of this Amendment.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance with claims 1-11 being allowable. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

As provided for above, this paper includes a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket No. 056272.57598US).

Respectfully submitted,
CROWELL & MORING LLP

Dated: December 15, 2008

By 
Robert L. Grabarek, Jr.
Reg. No. 40,625
Tel.: (949) 263-8400 (Pacific Coast)

Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, D.C. 20044-4300
DC6763617.1